

Appl. No. 09/451,580
Amdt. dated July 21, 2004
Reply to Office action of April 21, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A clamp device comprising:
 - a first member having a handle portion and a jaw portion;
 - a second member having a handle portion and a jaw portion, said handle portion having a hand grip portion integral with said handle portion, wherein the handle portion of the second member defines a notch extending from an outer surface of the handle portion of the second member at least partially into the handle portion of the second member;
 - a pivot pivotally coupling the first member and the second member intermediate their respective handle portion and jaw portion for opposed pivotal motion;
 - a spring carried by said pivot to bias said first and second members into an open position;
 - an arcuate clamp bar having a first end coupled to the first member and a second end, an arc of the arcuate clamp bar being concentric with the pivot; and
 - a brake lever having an end pivotally coupled to the second member at said notch and having an aperture with the arcuate clamp bar extending therethrough, the brake lever movable laterally between a frictionally engaged position, frictionally engaging the arcuate clamp bar and a disengaged position, and substantially motionless longitudinally.
2. (Original) A clamp device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the arcuate clamp bar extends into the handle portion of the second member.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A clamp device as claimed in claim 1 further including a latch carried by the handle portion of the second member, the latch movable between an open position permitting the braking lever to move to the frictionally engaged position and a closed position in which the brake lever is held in the disengaged position.

5. (Original) A clamp device as claimed in claim 1 wherein at least one of the jaw portions of the first member and the second member is flexible in an outward direction and biased in an inward direction.

6. (Original) A clamp device as claimed in claim 5 wherein a portion of at least one of the jaw portions of the first member and the second member flex in an outward direction and are biased in an inward direction.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) A clamp device as claimed in claim 6 wherein the portion of at least one of the jaw portions of the first member and the second member includes a pivot joint biased in the inward direction.

9. (Original) A clamp device as claimed in claim 1 wherein at least one of the handle portions of the first member and the second member is flexible in an inward direction and biased in an outward direction.

10. (Currently Amended) A clamp device comprising:

a first member having a handle portion and a jaw portion, the jaw portion being flexible in an outward direction and biased in an inward direction and the handle portion flexible in an inward direction and biased in an outward direction;

a second member having a handle portion and a jaw portion, said handle portion having a hand grip portion integral with said handle portion and a notch extending from an outer surface of the handle portion of the second member at least partially into the handle portion of the second member;

a pivot pivotally coupling the first member and the second member intermediate their respective handle portion and jaw portion for opposed pivotal motion between an open position and a closed position;

a spring carried by said pivot to bias said first and second members into said open position; and

a locking assembly having a frictionally engaged position preventing the first member and the second member from moving toward the open position and a disengaged position allowing the first member and the second member to move toward the open position.

11. (Original) A clamp device as claimed in claim 10 wherein a portion of at least one of the jaw portions of the first member and the second member flex in an outward direction and are biased in an inward direction.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) A clamp device as claimed in claim 11 wherein the portion of each of the jaw portions of the first member and the second member includes a pivot joint biased in the inward direction.

14. (Previously Presented) A clamp device as claimed in claim 10 wherein the locking assembly comprises:

an arcuate clamp bar having a first end coupled to the first member and a second end, an arc of the arcuate clamp bar being concentric with the pivot; and

a brake lever having an end pivotally coupled to the second member at said notch and having an aperture with the arcuate clamp bar extending therethrough, the brake lever movable laterally between the frictionally engaged position, frictionally engaging the arcuate clamp bar and the disengaged position, and being substantially motionless longitudinally.

15. (Original) A clamp device as claimed in claim 14 wherein the arcuate clamp bar extends into the handle portion of the second member.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) A clamp device as claimed in claim 14 further including a latch carried by the handle portion of the second member, the latch movable between an open position permitting the braking lever to move to the frictionally engaged position and a closed position in which the brake lever is held in the disengaged position.

18. (Previously Presented) A clamp device as claimed in claim 41 wherein the second member is one piece.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A clamp device as claimed in claim 41 wherein the brake lever is a single lever.

21. (Previously Presented) A clamp device as claimed in claim 41 wherein the brake lever is a single piece.

22. (Currently Amended) A clamp device comprising:

a first member having a handle portion and a jaw portion;

a second member having a handle portion and a jaw portion, wherein the handle portion of the second member defines a notch, the notch having inner surfaces and extending from an outer surface of the handle portion of the second member at least partially into the handle portion of the second member, said second member being molded as a single piece;

a pivot pivotally coupling the first member and the second member intermediate their respective handle portion and jaw portion for opposed pivotal motion;

a spring carried by said pivot to bias said first and second members into an open position;

an arcuate clamp bar having a first end coupled to the first member and a second end, an arc of the arcuate clamp bar being concentric with the pivot; and

a brake lever having an end contacting the second member and having an aperture with the arcuate clamp bar extending therethrough, the brake lever being movable laterally between a frictionally engaged position engaging the arcuate clamp bar and a disengaged position.

23. (Previously Presented) A clamp device as claimed in claim 22 wherein an end of the brake lever is pivotally coupled to the second member by being disposed within the notch in the handle portion of the second member, the brake lever pivoting against the inner surfaces of the notch in the handle portion of the second member.

24. (Currently Amended) A clamp device comprising:

- a first member comprising a handle portion and a jaw portion;
- a second member having a handle portion and a jaw portion, wherein the handle portion of the second member defines a notch extending from an outer surface of the handle portion of the second member at least partially into the handle portion of the second member, said notch having inner surfaces integral with said second member;
- a pivot pivotally coupling the first member and the second member intermediate their respective handle portion and jaw portion for opposed pivotal motion;
- a spring carried by said pivot to bias said first and second members into an open position;
- an arcuate clamp bar having a first end coupled to the first member and a second end, an arc of the arcuate clamp bar being concentric with the pivot; and
- a brake lever having an end pivotally disposed within the notch in the handle portion of the second member, the brake lever pivoting against the inner surfaces of the notch in the handle portion of the second member, and having an aperture with the arcuate clamp bar extending therethrough, the brake lever movable laterally between a frictionally engaged position, frictionally engaging the arcuate clamp bar and a disengaged position, and substantially motionless longitudinally.

25. (Currently amended) A clamp device comprising:

a first member comprising a handle portion and a jaw portion;

a second member having a handle portion and a jaw portion, wherein the handle portion of the second member defines a notch extending from an outer surface of the handle portion of the second member at least partially into the handle portion of the second member;

a pivot pivotally coupling the first member and the second member intermediate their respective handle portion and jaw portion for opposed pivotal motion;

a spring carried by said pivot to bias said first and second members into an open position;

an arcuate clamp bar having a first end coupled to the first member and a second end, an arc of the arcuate clamp bar being concentric with the pivot; and

a brake lever having an end pivotally disposed within the notch in the handle portion of the second member, the brake lever pivoting about a fixed point relative to said second member, and having an aperture with the arcuate clamp bar extending therethrough, the brake lever movable laterally between a frictionally engaged position, frictionally engaging the arcuate clamp bar and a disengaged position.

26. (Currently Amended) A clamp device comprising:

 a first member having a handle portion and a jaw portion, said jaw portion having an end, said first member being molded as a single piece;

 a second member having a handle portion and a jaw portion, said jaw portion having and end, said second member being molded as a single piece, said second member having a notch extending from an outer surface of said handle portion of said second member at least partially into said handle portion of said second member;

 a pivot pivotally coupling the first member and the second member intermediate their respective handle portion and jaw portion for opposed pivotal motion;

a spring carried by said pivot to bias said first and second members into an open position;

 an arcuate clamp bar having a first end coupled to the first member and a second end, an arc of the arcuate clamp bar being concentric with the pivot; and

 a brake lever having an end contacting the second member and having an aperture with the arcuate clamp bar extending therethrough, the brake lever being movable laterally between a frictionally engaged position engaging the arcuate clamp bar and a disengaged position.

27. (Previously Presented) A clamp device as claimed in claim 26 wherein said end of said brake lever pivotally contacts said second member.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) A clamp device as claimed in claim 26 further comprising gripping members pivotally connected to the ends of said jaw portions.

30. (Currently Amended) A clamp device comprising:

a first member comprising a handle portion and a jaw portion;

a second member having a handle portion and a jaw portion, said second member defining a notch extending from an outer surface of said handle portion of said second member at least partially into said handle portion of said second member;

a pivot pivotally coupling the first member and the second member intermediate their respective handle portion and jaw portion for opposed pivotal motion;

a spring carried by said pivot to bias said first and second members into an open position;

an arcuate clamp bar having a first end coupled to the first member and a second end, an arc of the arcuate clamp bar being concentric with the pivot, wherein the arcuate clamp bar extends into the handle portion of the second member;

guide members carried by the handle portion of the second member guiding the arcuate clamp bar therethrough; and

a brake lever having an end pivotally coupled to the second member at said notch and having an aperture with the arcuate clamp bar extending therethrough, the brake lever movable laterally between a frictionally engaged position, frictionally engaging the arcuate clamp bar and a disengaged position, and substantially motionless longitudinally.

31. (Previously Presented) A clamp device as claimed in claim 30 further including a latch carried by the handle portion of the second member, the latch movable between an open position permitting the braking lever to move to the frictionally engaged position and a closed position in which the brake lever is held in the disengaged position.

32. (Previously Presented) A clamp device as claimed in claim 30 wherein at least one of the jaw portions of the first member and the second member is flexible in an outward direction and biased in an inward direction.

33. (Previously Presented) A clamp device as claimed in claim 32 wherein a portion of at least one of the jaw portions of the first member and the second member flex in an outward direction and are biased in an inward direction.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) A clamp device comprising:

a first member comprising a handle portion and a jaw portion, the jaw portion being flexible in an outward direction and biased in an inward direction and the handle portion flexible in an inward direction and biased in an outward direction; a second member having a handle portion and a jaw portion;

a pivot pivotally coupling the first member and the second member intermediate their respective handle portion and jaw portion for opposed pivotal motion between an open position and a closed position;

a spring carried by said pivot to bias said first and second members into said open position;

a locking assembly having a frictionally engaged position preventing the first member and the second member from moving toward the open position and a disengaged position allowing the first member and the second member to move toward the open position, wherein the locking assembly comprises: an arcuate clamp bar

having a first end coupled to the first member and a second end, an arc of the arcuate clamp bar being concentric with the pivot, wherein the arcuate clamp bar extends into the handle portion of the second member; and a brake lever having an end pivotally coupled to the second member and having an aperture with the arcuate clamp bar extending therethrough, the brake lever movable laterally between the frictionally engaged position, frictionally engaging the arcuate clamp bar and the disengaged position, and being substantially motionless longitudinally; and

guide members carried by the handle portion of the second member guiding the arcuate clamp bar therethrough.

40. (Previously Presented) A clamp device as claimed in claim 39 further including a latch carried by the handle portion of the second member, the latch movable between an open position permitting the braking lever to move to the frictionally engaged position and a closed position in which the brake lever is held in the disengaged position.

41. (Currently Amended) A clamp device comprising:
a first member having a handle portion and a jaw portion;
a second member having a handle portion and a jaw portion, wherein the handle portion of the second member defines a notch extending from an outer surface of the handle portion of the second member at least partially into the handle portion of the second member;
a pivot pivotally coupling the first member and the second member intermediate their respective handle portion and jaw portion for opposed pivotal motion;
a spring carried by said pivot to bias said first and second members into an open position;
an arcuate clamp bar having a first end coupled to the first member and a second end, an arc of the arcuate clamp bar being concentric with the pivot; and
a brake lever having an end pivotally coupled to the second member and having an aperture with the arcuate clamp bar extending therethrough, the brake lever movable laterally between a frictionally engaged position, frictionally engaging the arcuate clamp bar and a disengaged position, and substantially motionless longitudinally, wherein an end of the brake lever is pivotally coupled to the second member by being disposed within the notch in the handle portion of the second member, the brake lever pivoting against the inner surfaces of the notch in the handle portion of the second member.